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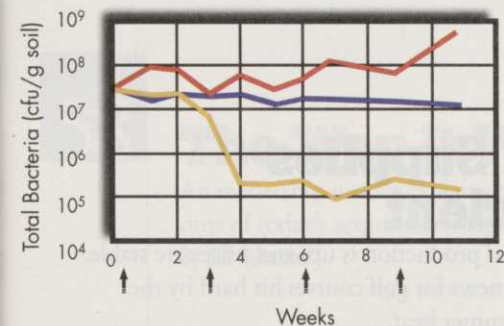
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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Southern Crop Protection & Food Research Centre, Dr. George Lazarovits, 1998

¹ Soil Organisms And Their Role In Healthy Turf, Turfgrass Trends, August 1998, Elaine R. Ingham, Ph.D.

² If You Care For Your Microbes Your Microbes Will Care For Your Turf, Golf Course Management, September 1998, Bud White, Agronomist

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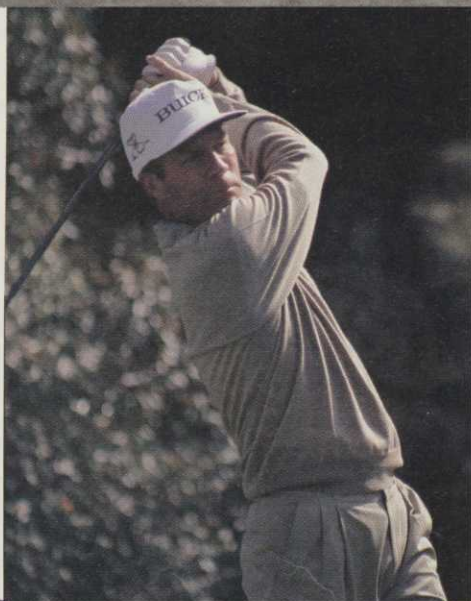
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Golfdom

SEPTEMBER 1999 • VOLUME 55 • NUMBER 6



His Cup Is Full



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Ben Around

The veteran captain Crenshaw speaks with Golfdom on the setup at Brookline, design and the dreaded Stimpmeter. Part two of our cover story.

By Geoff Shackelford

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Seed Supplies Sufficient

Turfgrass seed production is up, and prices are stable. That's good news for golf courses hit hard by the blistering summer heat.

By Ron Hall

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Sod Story With a Happy Ending

More golf courses have discovered that sodding is economical, efficient, reliable and smart.

By Doug Fender



cover story

BY LARRY AYLWARD

Superintendent Bill Spence is a seasoned veteran when it comes to setting up for golf's biggest shindigs, including the Ryder Cup at the distinguished Brookline CC.

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The Way It Works

An ownership insider explains the ins and outs of today's acquisition market.

By Bill Hunscher

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Art director Lisa Lehman created our cover collage from photos supplied by Geoff Shackelford, the PGA and Toro Co.

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Going Postal

■ WE'VE GOT MAIL

And the Beat(ing) Goes On

(Editor's note: The following letters are in response to Geoff Shackelford's May/June Golf By Design column, which was headlined "Dumb and Dumber: Superintendent Style.")

Please add Golfdom magazine to the list of publications and television networks that have set the turf management profession back another step or two in the eyes of the public. Geoff Shackelford is right next to Johnny Miller on my list of people who comment about golf course maintenance and should keep their mouths, or word processors, quiet.

I realize the intent of humor in Shackelford's piece, but he really comes off as a know-it-all horse's ass. Then again, the links are full of those types.

Patrick H. Sisk
Superintendent
Connecticut

"The article "Dumb and Dumber, Superintendent Style" made some good points. Too bad the writer used humor that wasn't to try and make these points valid. He also failed to point out that not all superintendents are stupid.

Gary Grigg CGCS, MG
Florida

Siding with Shack

Geoff Shackelford's comments on committees and superintendents are right on in many cases. As always, you can't lump all eggs in the same basket, but so much of what Geoff writes is true. The general golfing public has no clue about many things related to the game, let alone the intricate issues of design, maintenance or club structure. Sometimes you have to just yell loudly: "The emperor has no clothes!"

Keep the controversy coming and I expect your publication will become a joy to read for years to come.

Scot Sherman
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

I think the superintendents need to have a little more fun. I love my job and found it humorous how some guys are so sensitive to a few tongue-and-cheek comments. Keep up the good work. I love the politically incorrect approach to golf and our business.

Jon L. Cuny
Superintendent
Frankenmuth, MI

Article computes

I would like to commend you on the cybershopping article in your May/June issue. For one, you were able to explain the state of how the golf course industry is embracing (or not embracing, in some cases) the online opportunity. And secondly, you were able to present the companies mentioned in the article, including GolfSolutions.com, in the same light.

With Internet technology that's only going to improve and be part of every industry, you did a good job in informing the golf course professionals of the opportunities that are currently available to them. My wish is that the articles relating to online technology, along with future articles you publish on this subject, educate the industry on what the Internet can do for them.

Also, it's just as important for them to know what it can't do for them.

John Mueller
President
GolfSolutions.com

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Pat Jones at patrick.jones@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

Golfdom

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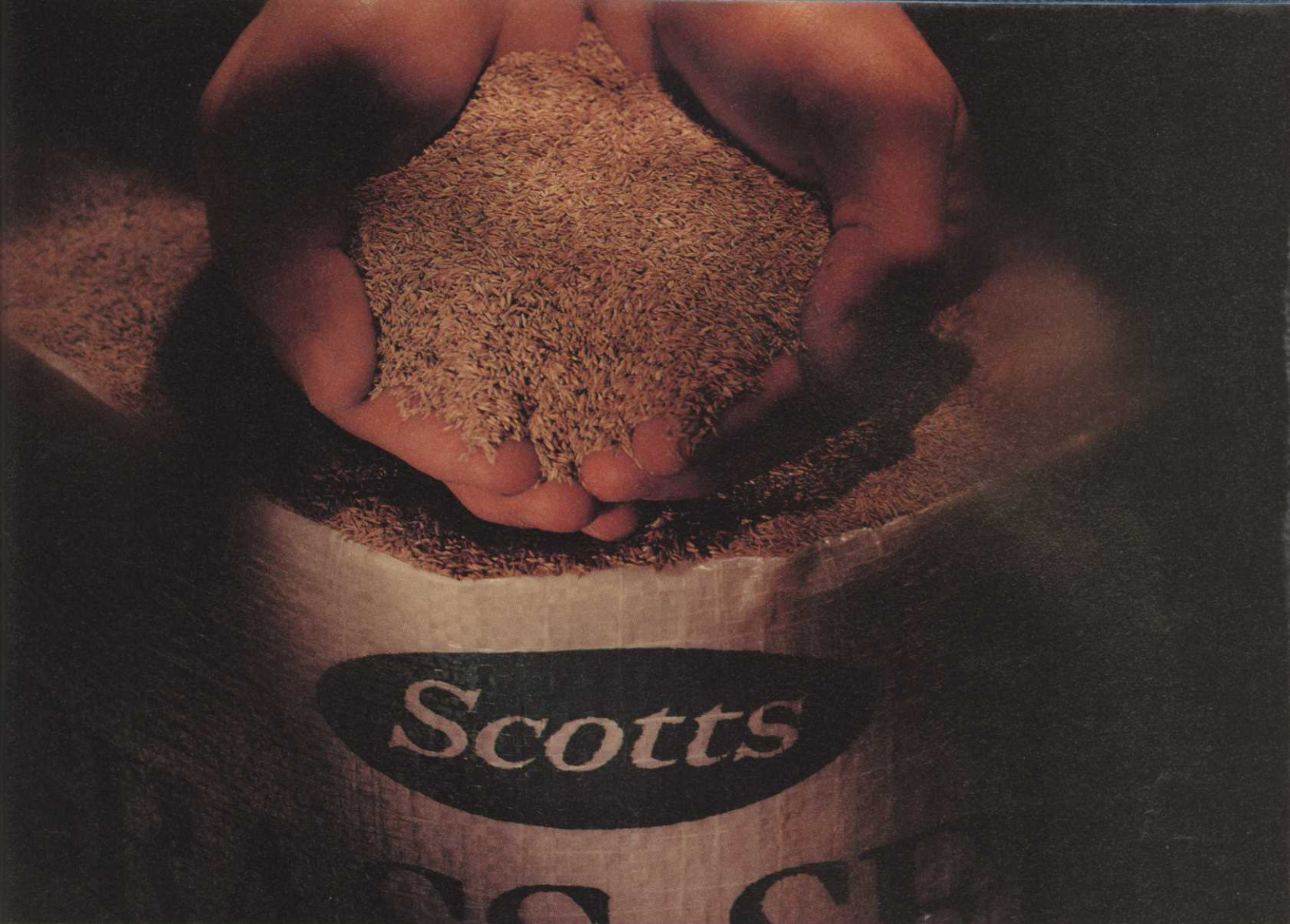
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Last month, I extolled the virtues of enlightening the whiners (golfers who complain endlessly because they're ignorant about your practices). The point was that an educated customer is more likely to understand and accept the occasional brown patch or cart restriction.

Well, along comes John Philp with an entirely new method of golfer education. Mr. Philp (who really needs to buy another vowel from Vanna for his last name) was the host superintendent for the Open at Carnoustie. He created what was arguably the most difficult setup for a major ever. It was diabolical. It was ugly. It was Jurassic Park with tees and greens. It was, in our humble opinion, a barrel of fun.

Just in case you were under a rock that week, I'll let you in on a little secret: The Tour pros actually *complained* about Mr. Philp's set up. Imagine that!

"It's a joke," said Sandy Lyle. David Duval called it the work of an "out-of-control greenkeeper." You couldn't swing a dead cat without hitting a multi-millionaire who was bitching about the rough.

Thankfully, John Daly stayed back in his double-wide in Little Rock or God only knows what he would have said.

And how did Mr. Philp, a model of reserved, British stiff-upper-lip understatement, respond to the criticism?

"It's crap," he said. "Players are pampered nowadays. They have their gurus (to) help them out, and they get their courtesy cars taking them everywhere. They want a good payday with as little hassle as possible. Well, sorry, Jimmy. This is the Open. Christ, the winner gets 350,000 pounds. You shouldn't get money for nothing. They've got a job to do."

Woo-hoo! Right on John! You da man!

If there was a Nobel Prize for straight talk, this guy should get it. I'd nominate him for an Old Tom Morris Award but, hell, this guy *is* Old Tom.

It seems to me that Mr. Philp's method of golfer education has a lot of merit. Rule #1, "Ye play it as ye find it, Laddie." Rule #2: See Rule #1.

The funny thing is that the same affluent American whiners who moan whenever you aerify or renovate a tee are clamoring to board

Philping Off the Whiners

BY PAT JONES



IT WAS UGLY. IT WAS JURASSIC PARK WITH TEES AND GREENS. IT WAS, IN OUR HUMBLE OPINION, A BARREL OF FUN.

British Air flights to Edinburgh so they can beat their brains out at Carnoustie. Go figure.

We can only hope that Professor Philp is waiting for them on the first tee to give them a wee dose of Scottish education.

This just in . . .

And perhaps we should fly Mr. Philp over the pond to have a chat with Lee Janzen, Duval and other PGA Championship competitors who (at press time) took shots at Medinah's Danny Quast for the condition of a couple of greens. Quast and his crew put together great conditions despite weeks of triple-digit heat indexes and the highest dew point in Chicago history. Between the outrageous weather and mouthy, spoiled pros, this has truly been the Summer of Slam.

The right stuff

On a happier note, Golfdom is still seeking the Young Leaders who will be the innovators and mentors of tomorrow. Any superintendent or assistant age 25 to 35 is eligible. To nominate yourself or a colleague, send me an e-mail or snail mail with contact information and a brief description of qualifications. A profile in the magazine and fabulous prizes await the honorees.

Deadline for entries is Nov. 1.

Ch-ch-changes

We welcome Frank Andorka to the Golfdom team as associate editor. Frank replaces Mike Perrault, who leaves us to return to his beloved Rocky Mountains. Thanks Mike. Watch out for Bigfoot.

Pat Jones is the publisher/editor of Golfdom. He can be reached at 440-891-3126 or patrick.jones@advanstar.com



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Circle No 135

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

EPA rules on pesticides

The U.S. EPA has implemented a ban and a reduction strategy for two organophosphates used mostly in agriculture. EPA is eliminating the use of methyl parathion on several fruits and vegetables; and reducing application rates of azinphos methyl on apples, pears and peaches. The laws take effect Jan. 1.

By the end of the year, EPA said it will complete its reassessment of the organophosphates and several other commonly used pesticides, and meet the Food Quality Protection Act's food-safety goals.

Pesticide-using industries have complained that EPA isn't using sound science in its FQPA decisions, but the National Resources Defense Fund threatened a lawsuit against EPA for not moving quickly enough to remove pesticides from the marketplace.

Southern Hills vandalized

The championship course at Southern Hills CC was closed for reseeding after vandals damaged eight greens by spraying them with damaging chemicals. Tulsa, Okla.-based Southern Hills is site of the 2001 U.S. Open. Four other greens on another 9-hole course were also damaged.

Eco Soil pays in lawsuit

Rancho Bernardo, Calif.-based Eco Soil Systems will pay termination charges and attorney's fees totaling \$200,000 to settle a lawsuit with Halifax Fund LP, Palladin Group LP, Granite Financial Group and Midori Capital Corp.

In other company news, Eco Soil will acquire the Agricultural Biological Division, a specialized research group of Agrium Inc. based in Calgary, Canada.

Briefs continue on page 15

Jurassic Links

Dinosaurs once enjoyed unhindered play on land that has become the greens, bunkers and fairways of the new Heritage at Westmoor GC in Westminster, Colo., a Denver suburb.

Bones belonging to four triceratops — a prehistoric beast resembling a heavily armored rhinoceros — were discovered during construction of the Michael Hurdzan-designed 18-hole municipal course. The most complete specimen was unearthed while digging a bunker. The Denver Museum of Natural History will get most of the remains, while various other pieces and parts will be enshrined at the course, which opened Sept. 9.

"We're going to put up a little display

case at the clubhouse," says Bill Walenczak, Westminster's director of parks, recreation and libraries. He oversaw construction of the \$8.7 million project, which includes an office/light industrial park along with the high-end, full-service clubhouse and course.


"It's tremendously exciting to hold something in your hand that's 62 million years old," Walenczak says.

Prior to the rise of the Rocky Mountains millions of years ago, the course's layout was part of a beach of a large inland sea that drained and left behind a setting similar to the Louisiana Bayous, according to geographic historians. The lush swampland was home to palms, giant gingers and other plants that attracted monsters such as the

Continued on page 17



The dark sections at the top of this rock formation are bone fragments from a triceratops.

A detailed photograph of a crocodile with its mouth wide open, consuming a large, light-colored bird. The crocodile's head is positioned in the center-left, with its body extending towards the right. The bird is held in the crocodile's mouth, with its wings and tail feathers protruding. The crocodile's skin is dark and textured, while the bird's feathers are a pale, yellowish-tan color. The entire scene is set against a solid green background, which appears to be a surface the crocodile is breaking through, as evidenced by several sharp, light-colored shavings or splinters scattered around the bird's body. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the crocodile's scales and the bird's feathers.

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